

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An external preparation for skin which comprises one kind or two or more kinds of organic acid(s) and one kind or two or more kinds of nonionic water soluble polymer(s) except for polysaccharides, and is characterized by having a pH of 2.0 or less.
2. (original) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1 wherein said organic acid is selected from the group consisting of trichloroacetic acid, succinic acid, malic acid, glycolic acid, mandelic acid, lactic acid, α -hydroxybutyric acid, β -hydroxyvaleric acid, α -hydroxyvaleric acid, citric acid, tartronic acid, tartaric acid, glucuronic acid, gluconic acid, mucic acid, pyruvic acid, salicylic acid, ascorbic acid, catechol, and p-hydroquinone.
3. (currently amended) The external preparation for skin according to claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein said nonionic water soluble polymer comprises a highly polymerized polyethylene glycol and/or polyvinyl alcohol.
4. (currently amended) ~~The external preparation for~~ A method of chemically peeling skin comprising contacting the skin with the preparation of claim 1 ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 3 which is for use in chemical peeling.~~
5. (new) The external preparation for skin according to claim 2 wherein said nonionic water soluble polymer comprises a highly polymerized polyethylene glycol and/or polyvinyl alcohol.
6. (new) A method of chemically peeling skin comprising contacting the skin with the preparation of claim 2.
7. (new) A method of chemically peeling skin comprising contacting the skin with the preparation of claim 3.
8. (new) A method of chemically peeling skin comprising contacting the skin with the preparation of claim 5.